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to discover truth in a multitude of unrelated details; still others will prefer an account of a clear-cut struggle between two economic groups, each conscious of its interests and striving zealously for them; but to an increasing number who insist that if history is to be "much ado" it must be about something, and that the past was full of real people who took part in real incidents, books like Becker's will become increasingly popular.

The volume settles no cosmic question. It is full of human motives and conduct, but it attempts to answer no question about the inscrutable mystery of human behavior. Instead of explaining it, the author exhibits it. One may be inclined to find fault with a detachment which makes him seem to say, "History is an interesting record of human antics; it well repays the time given to it." But he must forgive a disciple of the "new history," who, despite his "questionable orthodoxy," refuses to furnish in a book dealing with the period which saw the rise of orthodox political economy a refuge for the homeless "economic man."

WALTON H. HAMILTON

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Imperial England. By CECIL FAIRFIELD LAVELL and CHARLES EDWARD PAYNE. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1918. Pp. ix+395. \$2.00.

The authors, who are professors of history in Grinnell College, are interested in the experience of the British Empire in connection with problems of world-reorganization and the League of Nations. They point out that the empire is in large part itself a League of Free Nations, and also that it has developed an elaborate and successful system for governing and educating "backward" groups. An understanding of its history is therefore of particular interest at the present time. To cover the whole development of the empire details are necessarily omitted, except by way of occasional illustration; but the resulting treatment of broad general causes, movements, policies, and problems is interesting and valuable. Chapters are included on Ireland and the effect of the war on the empire as a whole.